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COMMUNITY
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August 11, 2000

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Opposition to Petition for Rulemaking by
Satellite Industry Association, RM-9911

Dear Ms. Salas:

It has come to my attention that the Satellite Industry Association has filed a petition with FCC to have what amounts to the top and bottom of the ITFS/MMDS band reassigned to Mobile Satellite Service. I am writing in opposition to this petition for the following reasons:

- ITFS channels have been set aside for educational use for many years and educators are just now realizing the potential of its use as broadband connectivity to the Internet.
- In North Carolina and across the nation, community colleges have spent the past five years resolving mutual exclusivity and other issues related to the licensing process.
- Many community colleges have only recently been issued licenses and it would be unfair for the Commission to take them back.
- The ITFS channels located on the frequency bands proposed in SIA's petition are an important part of the educational network in North Carolina.
- The ITFS channels are being integrated with commercial channels to form a broadband wireless network throughout the State of North Carolina.
- SIA has totally ignored the hundreds of existing licensees and extensive existing operations on the channels.

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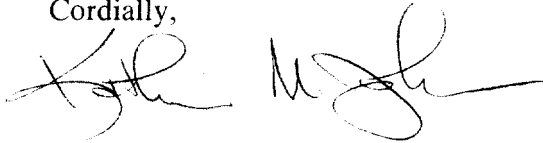
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- The FCC has made favorable rulings to help companies deploy DSL and cable modem services.

Having reviewed my concerns, I hope you will deny this petition by the Satellite Industry Association and thus protect our rights to free trade and avoid monopolies in the broadband.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine M. Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Katherine M. Johnson, Ed.D.
President

KMJ/gw

c: Senator Jesse Helms
Senator John Edwards
Congressman Bob Etheridge